

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129058
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES:VLV
APPROVED BY EB:JLKATZ
EB/TRA - JRATWOOD
NEA/AIA - JMCBRIDE
-----074262 220037Z /62
R 212214Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IS

SUBJECT: US-ISRAEL CIVIL AVIATION

REF: TEL AVIV 6490

1. IN MEETING ON MAY 15 WITH CAB CHAIRMAN KAHN, ISRAELI
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AMIT URGED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE
SCHEDULED AT THE EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE AND THAT SUBJECT
OF TWA'S APEX FARE BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA.
AS AN APPARENT CONCESSION, MINISTER SAID THAT ISRAELIS WOULD
NOT INTERFERE WITH TWA PASSENGERS ALREADY SOLD APEX
TICKETS. CHAIRMAN KAHN RESPONDED THAT QUESTION OF SETTING
DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD, IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S
LETTER, HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED BY MINISTER DIRECTLY WITH
DEPARTMENT.

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2. IF WAS IMPOSSIBLE ARRANGE MEETING FOR MINISTER WITH
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, BUT AMBASSADOR DINITZ CALLED ON ASST
SECY KATZ MAY 19 TO PURSUE SUBJECT. BURDEN OF AMBASSADOR'S
PRESENTATION WAS THAT, WHILE ISRAEL WAS PREPARED TO AGREE
TO LIBERAL ARRANGEMENTS ON AIR FARES AND CHARTER FLIGHTS,
IT COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SEPARATE OUT THE AIR FARE ISSUE
FOR RESOLUTION PRIOR TO NEGOTIATING THE OTHER ISSUES. KATZ

NOTED THAT PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAD STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST

IN ENHANCING COMPETITION AND IN LOWER AIR FARES AND THAT,
IN LIGHT PRESIDENT'S LETTER, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO
RESOLVE QUESTION OF APEX FARE BEFORE MAIN NEGOTIATIONS.
US COULD NOT HOWEVER HOLD NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE JUNE 26
BECAUSE OF OUR ALREADY COMMITTED NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE.

3. SEVERAL POSSIBLE INTERIM SOLUTIONS WERE DISCUSSED, SUCH
AS KATZ' PROPOSAL THAT APEX FARE BE ALLOWED ON INTERIM
BASIS PENDING NEGOTIATIONS OR THAT ISRAELIS ALLOW TWA SELL
THIS FARE EX-US. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT IN POSITION
TO DISCUSS SUCH POSSIBILITIES, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT SANGUINE
THAT SOME INTERIM SOLUTION WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IN END, IT
WAS AGREED THAT ISRAELI AMBASSADOR WOULD ATTEMPT MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MINISTER TRANSPORT AMIT TO SEE KATZ
EARLY MONDAY MORNING, MAY 22. APPOINTMENT NOW CONFIRMED
FOR 8:30 AM. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE129058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHSTYLES:VLV
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-0986
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780536/aaaabdyj.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e3d18a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 6490
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2623189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-ISRAEL CIVIL AVIATION
TAGS: EAIR, IS, TWA
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e3d18a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014